

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000341

OUTCOME: 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Vaccines

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Abetz, Eric

Question:

Does the Department of Health take into account that certain categories of individuals (those suffering from an atopic dermatitis or infected by HIV) may suffer adverse reactions to certain vaccines administered and if so, what action has the Department taken to ensure that alternative vaccines are available for these immunocompromised individuals?

Answer:

In the context of vaccines procured for the National Medical Stockpile, the Department of Health does consider at risk groups and the potential adverse effects associated with the administration of vaccines and other pharmaceuticals.

In some instances the Department may procure a range of products to cater for different population or at risk groups and/or products that aim to minimise the risk of adverse effects or treat an adverse effect.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) includes experts in immunology who are able to provide advice on the vaccination needs of specific population groups. A working party has recently been established to identify the vaccination needs of people who are immunocompromised. The latest ATAGI Bulletin refers and can be accessed here: <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/atagi-meet59bulletin>